



## **500.56 Explosive Devices**

Number Series: 500—Operational  
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### **POLICY**

The Sheriff has guidelines to maximize the safety and coordination of incidents requiring explosive devices. The storage, security, inspection, application, and safety considerations for explosives be adhered to per the rules set forth by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).

### **PROCEDURE**

#### **A. Criteria**

1. The Special Response Team (SRT) Commander or designee will determine if the use of explosive device is needed, which will be documented on the Special Operational Plan. The choice to employ explosive breaching shall be based primarily on the safety of hostages, innocent civilians, officers, and offenders.
2. Incidents during which explosive breaching may be used include, but are not limited to the following:
  - a. High risk warrant service
  - b. Hostage situations
  - c. Barricaded suspects
  - d. Armed felon suspect arrests
  - e. Sniper situations

#### **B. Deployment**

1. Prior to deploying explosive devices, SRT members shall consider available intelligence information and circumstances which include, but are not limited to, presence of children, elderly persons, or flammable materials.
2. During SRT deployment, the explosive breachers will conduct joint reconnaissance when it is safe to do so. When it is unsafe for joint reconnaissance, only trained SRT members will be used to provide information about the structure.
3. If it is safe to do so, explosive breaching charges will be placed and detonated. If the placement of the explosive charges is deemed unsafe for joint placement and detonation, only SRT trained explosive breachers will place the explosive breaching charges.
4. The SRT commander or his designees shall determine when reconnaissance and placement are unsafe for explosive breachers.

5. During a deployment, SRT explosive breacher shall be on scene. All explosive charges that fail to fire during the breaching operation will be handled by the SRT commander or his designees in accordance with their approved training.
  6. Incidents where explosive breaching is utilized shall be documented in an incident report, supplemental report or after action report.
- C. Training
1. SRT members will be properly trained in the proper use and deployment of the explosive devices. Authorized SRT members must complete annual refresher training of the explosive devices.
- D. Equipment
1. All equipment will be maintained by the SRT Commander or designee. This includes uniforms, gear, hardware, explosives, etc.
  2. Explosives utilized for breaching shall be transported within a portable magazine.
  3. Explosives devices utilized for breaching shall be secured and stored within the Magazine which is located at the Hendry County Sheriff's Office Gun Range.
  4. The SRT Commander or designee will be responsible for documented monthly inventories and inspections of the explosive devices.

## DEFINITIONS

**DETONATOR** – Any device containing a detonating charge that is used for initiating detonation in an explosive. The term includes, but is not limited to, electric blasting caps of instantaneous and delay types, blasting caps for use with safety fuses, detonating- cord delay connectors, and nonelectric instantaneous and delay blasting caps.

**EXPLOSIVE ACTUATED TACTICAL DEVICE (EATDS)** – Any tool or special mechanized device which is actuated by explosives, but not a propellant actuated device. Other EATDS, such as powder blast grenades (commonly known as “stingers”) contain flash powder, disperse rubber pellets, and are also classified as high explosives.

**EXPLOSIVE** – Any chemical compound, mixture, or device, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion. The term includes, but is not limited to, dynamite and other high explosives, black powder, pellet powder, initiating explosives, detonators, safety fuses, squibs, detonating cord, igniter cord, and igniters.

**EXPLOSIVE BREACHERS** – A SRT team member who has attended an approved tactical explosive breacher's course where he/she was trained in the construction, placement, and initiation of an explosive breaching device.

**EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS** - A sudden, almost instantaneous, release of gas, heat, and pressure, accompanied by loud noise when subjected to a certain amount of shock pressure or temperature such as, explosives, blasting agents, water gels and detonators.

**FLASH POWDER** – An explosive material intended to produce an audible report and a flash of light when ignited which includes but is not limited to oxidizers such as potassium chlorate or potassium perchlorate, and fuels such as sulfur or aluminum powder.

**MAGAZINE** – Any building or structure, other than an explosives manufacturing building, used for storage of explosive materials.

**NOISE / FLASH DIVERSIONARY DEVICES (NFDDs)** – A device designed to disorient an opponent through a combination of a blinding flash or a light and a deafening concussive sound.

**PORTABLE MAGAZINE** – A container of suitable size and construction to safely transport and contain the explosive material.

**PYROTECHNIC COMPOSITIONS** – A chemical mixture which, upon burning and without explosion, produces visible, brilliant displays, bright lights, or sounds.

## **REFERENCES**

State/Federal Regulations:

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 27, Part 555

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives 2009-3

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives 2012-4

Florida Statutes 55.23

CFA:

CFA Standards 17.10M

Forms:

500.56-01 Explosives Electric

500.56-02 Explosives Detonator Cord

500.56-03 Flash Bangs

Other Policy/ Procedure References:

None